harassment as also to inspire public confidence in police, prompt and strict deterrent action is taken against the policemen found involved in such lapses. This includes registration of criminal cases against them, suspension, initiation of departmental proceedings, summary dismissal in serious cases, etc. Delhi Police also maintain a close watch over officers of doubtful integrity.

Proposal to join the Interpol Communications Network

824. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to join the In

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith likely benefit emerging out of it;

(c) whether a final decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Interpol is likely to develop a new criminal information system by including a variety of subjects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (f) A decision has been taken to join the Interpol Tele-communication Network which is based on the X-400 protocol. This is an exclusive network which can be accessed by only Interpol member countries and Interpol General Secretariat. The network will allow data and images to be passed between member countries themselves and with Interpol General Secretariat. There will also be provision for online encryption of the communication. It is likely to be implemented by the and of the corrent year.

The Interpol General Secretariat ahs a programme to develop a new Criminal Information System. The main technical advantage of the new system will be the introduction of intelligent consultation software. The following subjects are proposed to be developed over the next five years:— (i) Money Laundering, (ii) Credit Cards, (iii) Stolen Passports, (iv) Identity Document, (v) Cheques, (vi) Address Book and (vii) Paedophilia.

Terrorist activities in North-Eastern region.

825. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a marked spurt in terrorist activities and killings by the ultras of North-East region in recent past especially during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the circumstances which hve led to this situation; and

(c) what is the strategy of Government to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Certain States in the North-Eastern Region have varying degrees of militancy and terrorism. It cannot be said that there is a marked spurt in terrorist activities and killings in recent past. The Government have adopted a multi pronged strategy to tide over . the situation which includes, *inter-alia,* offer of unconditional talks, deployment of additional units of the Central Para-Military Forces and the Army, improved coordination and sharing of intelligence, sanction of India Reserve Battalions, Moidernisation/upgradation of State

Police Forces, sanction of special Central assistance, declaration of the most seriously affected areas as disturbed areas and notification of the major insurgent groups as unlawful associations. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking approprate decisions.

Purulia Arms droping

826. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intelligence Bureau had forwarded the Home Ministry about an Aircraft that would drop arms around the date on which the actual arms drop took place near Purulia (West Bengal);

(b) whether the Home Secretary had admitted in the Report of the Committee on Assurances which was made public on 7th May, 1997 that there was total failure on the part of Government agencies and lack of co-ordination among them;

(c) what action and steps have been taken by Government to plug the lack of co-ordination on such important issue amongst various Ministry viz. Home, Defence and Civil Aviation indicating the details thereof; and

(d) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR):

(a) The initial information in this regard was received from an intelligence agency which intimated that an attempt would be made to deliver an arms consignment, by a small-aircraft through a brief unscheduled landing at a rough strip near Dhanbad (Bihar).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Subsequent to the Purulia incident, the inter-Ministerial Group under the Chairmanship of Shri V.K. Jain, Former Special Secretary, was constituted to suggest various measures to prevent recurrence to type of Purulia incident. With regard to non-scheduled flights, the Committee recommended as under:—

(i) All Non-scheduled flights should be checked by Customs at the International airports under section 106 of the Indian Customs Act, 1962;

(ii) AH non-scheduled flights, making both authorised or unauthorised halts at the International Airports in India should be subjected to visual and random checking by Customs authorities under the above stated law and in case of suspicion, thorough rummage and search operations to be conducted. Certain flights of this category have been exempted. These include:—

(a) Ambulance flights (name and address of the patient and the Doctor to be given).

(b) Relief aircraft of scheduled passenger airline due to technical grounding of aircrafts.

(c) Relief flights in case of natural calamities.

(d) Flights recommended by the diplomatic missions of the concerned countries. On this issue, however, it was decided that Ministry of External Affairs will have to be consulted.

(e) Flights recommended by Ministries/Departments of Government of India at the level of Director/Deputy Secretary and above and Indian Embassies/High Commissions abroad.

(iii) A list of aircraft which are generally used for para dropping has been supplied to Customs so that their ground formations are sensitised.

(iv) The records maintained at Flight Information Centre of Airports Authority of India relation to